

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes October 21, 2015

Commissioners present: Christine Carney (Chair), Sharon Grossman, Gary Horowitz, Bill Logan, Yawa Degboe, Marliisa Briggett, Sheri Baron, Mel Goldsipe

Absent: Ghanda DiFiglia, Nick Minton, Jorge Loayza

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m.

Citizen's Open Forum

There were no citizens in attendance.

Minutes:

The September minutes were accepted with changes.

Correspondence Received:

The Commission received an email from Laurie Kenschaft from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) regarding the vandalism of the Black Lives Matter sign in front of its building. The UUA wrote a response for Wicked Local Online. Commissioner Briggett moved to appoint Commissioner Goldsipe to craft a response to the UUA letter for the *Arlington Advocate*, seconded by Commissioner Baron. Discussion ensued and the motion unanimously carried.

Juli Brazile from the 2020 Committee had some questions on the LGBTQ survey. Commissioner Goldsipe will respond.

Incidents & Complaints:

There was discussion noted above about the vandalism of the Black Lives Matter sign.

True Story Theater Collaboration

The meeting to discuss our new logo will take place on December 1, 2015 from 7-9 pm.

Selma Recap

The showing of Selma was a success. We had a turnout of about 32 people.

By Law Review Subcommittee

Commissioner Horowitz moved that Commission amend its by-laws to read that "The Arlington Human Rights Commission may have an Executive Director if the Commissioners deem it is necessary. Any Executive Director appointment shall be made by the Town Manager with the approval of the Commission." Commissioner Goldsipe seconded the motion and discussion ensued. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Goldsipe moved to add "gender identity and expression" to the list of protected classes regarding non-discrimination in Arlington. Commissioner Grossman seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Rapid Response Committee

There was discussion regarding the Arlington Response Coordination Team and how it works. It meets

four times a year. Commissioner Baron will send the flow chart and determine what policies and procedures are in place for hate incidents/crimes. It was also determined that the Commission's assistant shall update the committee list quarterly.

Cultural Competency Training

Commissioner Grossman has been in touch with the trainer who has worked at the high school. She provided information on Steve Wessler's credentials. The Commission discussed in depth its needs and goals for this training. Commissioner Carney will contact a former Commissioner regarding basic cultural competency. Commissioner Goldsipe will look into training on transgender issues for sometime next year.

Community Events/Happenings

The Mystic LGBTQ Youth launch party is November 13 from 7-9 p.m. at the Arlington Center for the Arts.

Commissioner Horowitz moved to adjourn. Commissioner Grossman seconded and it was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned.